

Fellowship Bible Church

MISSION:

Fellowship invites people
to enter God's story, equipping and releasing them
to become reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ.

VISION:

BE - a passionate community of God living out our faith in families and neighborhoods.
MULTIPLY - the impact of God's love by reproducing disciples of Christ at every level.
GO - into the the world empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the hope of the gospel.

VALUES:

1. Responding to the Grace of God

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience,
not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4 (NIV)

- God is the initiator in our relationship with him.
- Theologically: this means we are **Calvinistic**
- We are responding to God's already present love for us.
- We are in no way seeking approval - this is a response to present approval by grace.
- Christ has already made us acceptable and we are so blown away that we love in response.
- This makes guilt off limits as a motivation.
- This makes authenticity with God possible and necessary.
- This also allows us to minister authentically as well, without pretending that we have it together.
- Trying to impress God and others is evidence that you don't understand grace as a motivator for the Christian life.

2. Reproducing Disciples of Christ

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

- The Christian Life is not about us. It is about God and others (Jesus made it all about relationships when he said, "Love God and Love Others" is the greatest commandment.)
- Theologically: this means we take the **Great Commission** seriously.
- This is not involvement in a program - it is deepening a relationship with Jesus.
- It is a process: Initiation by baptism, teaching them the whole counsel of God that results in a life of obedience. (Jesus said: "if you love me, you will keep my commandments").
- Discipleship takes place in the context of relationship (life on life).
- There is a mixture (not always balanced) of organism and organization.
- It is a chain reaction. It is dominos falling. It is reproduction. It is multiplication. It is generational investment.

3. Relying on the Holy Spirit

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)

- The internal work of the Holy Spirit is essential to personal sanctification.
- The empowering work of the Holy Spirit is essential to ministry (cf. Acts)
- Theologically: this means we are **Trinitarian not Charismatic.**
- The presence of the Holy Spirit is a evidence of the Gospel of Jesus being real in your life.
- The ministry of the Spirit is a ministry that focuses on application.
- The focus is on internal transformation not external rules.
- Relationships and Character will change to behavior - Being precedes doing!
- We believe that the Holy Spirit will always point you to Christ.
- There are two types of filling.
 - * (πληρωω) = Filling for Christian Living - Abiding Condition based on Submission.
 - * (πιμπλημι) = Filling for Christian Service - Sovereign Bestowal with a focus on the event.

4. Rooting our lives in the Word of God & Prayer

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Colossians 4:2-4 (NIV)

- The Word of God is transformational.
- We prioritize expository preaching.
- God's Word guides us more than the most contemporary trends.
- Theologically: this means we are **have a high View of Scripture.**
- Hermeneutics is very important in ministry. Exegesis is valued and Eisegesis is dangerous.
- We stand between two worlds on the bridge of contextualization and speak from one town to another.
- Theologically: this means we believe **prayer is always our first response.**
- We are always seeking to align ourselves with God's agenda through prayer.
- When we are praying we are doing ministry.
- Prayer is evidence that we are dependent on God for everything.
- Prayer is never easy but always essential.
- Prayer is talking to the Father about the Father (praise, program, plan) and about the family (pardon, provision, protection) - Matthew 6:9-13.

5. Relating to one another in love & service

For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:14 (NASB)

- The core of everything is relational because the Trinity is relational.
- God is love and Jesus demonstrated love by laying down His life for us (1 John 4:7; Romans 5:8).
- We seek to imitate this example of love by seeking the best for others regardless of cost to self.
- Knowledge and sacrifice are important but without love it is utterly useless (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
- Loving others requires that we be honest about ourselves first (Matt. 7:1-5, Gal. 6:1).
- Loving others means speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).
- Loving others means you speak in a way that builds others up according to what is needed (Eph. 4:29).
- Love may mean hard conversations and consequences are needed (Hebrews 12:5-7).
- Faith, hope, and love abide; but the greatest of these is love.

6. Reaching the world with the good news

So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying,
"Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;
but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
Acts 1:6-8 (NASB)

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;
and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mathew 28:18-20 (NASB)

- We take the great commission seriously as a mandate to reach the nations.
- We believe that every believer has a personal responsibility to be involved in Mission.
- Our involvement in the mission of God varies according to your giftedness, but everyone should be involved.
- Mission exists because worship does not. Mission is gathering worshippers of God.
- We are to be engaged in the Mission of God, proclaiming the Message of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We value partnership in Mission work both locally and abroad.
- We believe that Mission requires us to walk across the street and travel across the seas.
- God's plan is to use the church to reach the world so we prioritize partnering with churches and equipping church leaders.

7. Releasing every believer to use their gifts

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.
There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.
But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NASB)

...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love..

Ephesians 5:11-16 (NASB)

- We believe every believer is given a spiritual gift and every gift is important (Eph. 4:16)
- The spiritual gifts listed are not exhaustive (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4).
- Spiritual gifts can be developed, neglected and even change throughout your life.
- Gifts are to be used to build up the body of Christ and not ourselves (1 Cor. 12:7).
- It is important that people service in an area of primary giftedness over time.
- A person's spiritual gift, heart for service, natural abilities, personalities and life experiences will SHAPE them.
- Equipping and releasing a person to serve using their gifts (Eph. 4:11-16) is better than filling a position.
- When every person is using their giftedness to make a contribution the church is mature and growing (Eph. 4:16)

8. Resourcing families to leave a legacy of faith

These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.
You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house
and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NASB)

- We believe that every human is created in the image of God and valuable to him (Gen. 1:26-27).
- We stand strongly for the dignity of human life from the moment of conception (Ps 139:14; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:15).
- We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman for life (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5 et al).
- Children are a gift and investing in them and their future is crucial (Psalm 127).
- Parents are God's provision to guide children toward Godly living (Eph. 6:2).
- We believe that men are to be the heads of their homes as they sacrificially love their wives (Eph. 5:23; 5:25).
- Wives are to submit to the headship of their husband and respect him (Eph. 5:22, 1 Pet. 3:1-7).
- Love and respect are the foundations of a healthy marriage (Eph. 5:33).
- Children are to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1, Col. 3:20).
- Parenting is a huge responsibility and requires great care and intentionality (Prov. 1:8;6:20; 22:6 et al).